

**Ames Public Schools
1870-1970**



The Centennial Committee of the Ames Community School District is indebted to those who helped make this publication possible.

This is not, nor can it be, a complete history of the Ames Community School District.

The individual school histories were written by children from that school.

We enjoyed compiling it; we hope you enjoy reading it.

Mr. Bill Ellett

Mr. Wayne Beal

Mrs. Grace Bauske

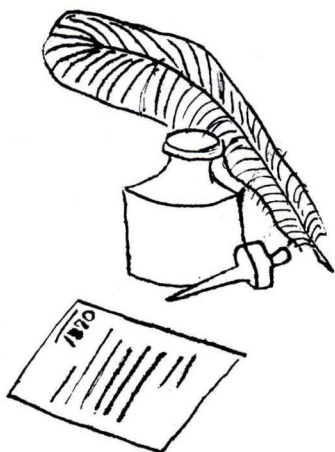
Miss Mary Sterling

Mr. Harvey Taylor

Mr. Terry Adams

Suzanne McCully did the cover.

Crawford and Sawyer school children illustrated the remainder of the book.



Ames Community School District

- - A History

From the time the Senior Class of 1885 chose its motto "Not ended, but begun" until today when "Ames Hi aims high," the citizens and students of Ames have been concerned with education.

At the same time the pioneer settlement was changing into a thriving village, the first school house was built for Ames. In 1867, near the timber on the south side of the tracks, on the site where Lincoln School now stands, a one-room frame building was equipped to house all school grades. This small building located twenty rods east of Squaw Creek was known as "Hoggatt School," named after Lucien Hoggatt, pioneer sheriff for the early settlement. Henry May taught in that school for three terms. Washington and Grant Townships were considered one township for school purposes, each township paying one half of the expense of maintaining the school. Jack Erb (Grant Township) and Henry May (Washington Township) divided the duties of school business between them.

In 1868 the townships were divided, Hoggatt School was abandoned, and a two story frame building consisting of two rooms, one upstairs and one downstairs, was built on the south side at a cost of \$450. This school was known as Sub-District No. 4, Washington Township. Henry May continued to teach the higher grades and Miss Barwell taught the lower grades.

Among the first pupils of Mr. May's class were the following: Sarah Fitchpatrick (McElyea), Ella Fitchpatrick, Jim Adams, John Hoggatt, Pen and John Kintzley, M. K. Smith, Mrs. Chet Little, Mrs. S. Scott, Sam and Lon Hiestand, Becky Hoggatt (Mrs. Loud), Willard McCarthy and Marie McCarthy.

Members of the first Board of Education of Washington Township were William West, president; William Lucas, director; L. B. Farwell, treasurer and Henry May, secretary.

In the spring of 1870, a special vote of the electors of Washington Township was called for the purpose of hearing the petition of the school district known as Sub-District No. 4 to become the Independent District of Ames. When the petition was granted, the voters of Ames elected a board of trustees. On May 7, 1870, the following citizens were organized as the first Board of the Independent School District of Ames: H. F. Kingsbury, president; N. A. Rainbolt, secretary; J. H. Miller, treasurer; C. G. Tilden, Isaac Black, directors for three-year terms; T. Weld, two-year term; and William West and H. R. Barwell, one-year terms.

The town continued to grow and rooms were rented for school purposes over stores on the north side, and in 1874 it was necessary to open a primary school in a little frame house which stood on the corner across from the city library. Miss Emma Chamberlain served as teacher in this school building for the one year of its existence. The following year a four-room wooden building was completed at the corner of Eighth and Kellogg at a cost of \$1400. The school on the south side became a primary and intermediate school for the south side, while the north side school also had a primary department as well as high school classes.

Among the early teachers in these schools were Henry Christman, Miss Julia Tilden, Miss Emerson, Miss Chamberlain, Miss Sadie Ames, Mr. Nehan, Mr. Ashton, G. A. Gerard, W. F. Chevalier, M. F. Morgan, and Mr. Osborn. Salaries

averaged about \$35 a month.

School was held five days a week from nine in the morning until four in the afternoon, with one hour for lunch. The school year included three months in the summer and four in the winter, but in 1871 an eight-month continuous school year was adopted. There was no formal division of the school year into semesters or quarters, and many of the examinations were given orally.

Approximately 50 pupils attended this early high school. Arithmetic, algebra, American history, rhetoric and physiology were the courses offered. There were no organized sports and no extra-curricular activities.

No definite grading system existed and the requirements for graduation often were based upon judgments of the teacher. Members of the class which left high school in 1878 failed to receive diplomas until 1928, 50 years after they finished their high school education. It was through the efforts of W. F. Chevalier, principal, that organization of formal classes and establishment of definite graduation requirements were developed.

Graduation exercises were held in the Opera House until it burned down in the spring of 1888, after which exercises were held in the Methodist Church. In these early commencements each member of senior class took part in the program, usually presenting an original memorized oration. Excerpts from an article published in 1888 in the Ames Intelligencer explain, "The exercises were opened with an instrumental selection by Miss Westerman, very beautiful and eloquent, and invocation by Reverend Mr. Wells, excellent in matter, but a little long and tedious for a June evening . . . The address to the



High School, 1881-1911

class was by Reverend Wilson whose remarks were suggestive and practical. Mr. Biglow presented the diplomas and facetiously cracked the old chestnut about its being the best class, etc. etc. . . . As has been the case for several years past, the graduating class was composed of young ladies with one single exception: Master Frank Meredith. Where are the boys? Where are the future men of the State and Nation? The fact that of the eight graduates there was but one boy bears with it its own thoughtful criticism and censure of parental neglect. The great and overshadowing duty of parents in this age is the education of their children. Brain and not brawn wins in the race of life today."

Before 1888 the senior classes were graduated in March to enable the students to attend Iowa State College for the second semester. Until 1904 a preparatory course at

the college took many students from the high school after the sophomore year. However, it was possible for the students "under Professor Chevalier's careful tutelage, by proper study" to enter the sophomore class of the college immediately after high school graduation.

Those who attended these first schools remember blushing boys made to sit among the girls as a punishment, the necessity for the board to hire guards to surround the schools on the night of October 31, fires built by the teachers on blustery mornings, the chilling shriek of slate pencils as students wrote on slates, the monthly visit of the principal to the classrooms, the necessity of appearing before the board if a student wanted to drop a subject, and a writing school held in the school house one summer.

But the town was growing and

prospering because of its fortunate position near Iowa State College and location on the Chicago-Northwestern Railroad. The farming area surrounding Ames was also flourishing. At the regular annual school election in March 1880, the board submitted a request to issue bonds for the purpose of building a new school house. They were asking for \$10,000. When the votes were counted, they had 148 citizens in favor, 28 against. This debt was contracted and the first brick school house, "Old" Central, opened in 1881 on the site of the present Central Junior High School. Members of the Board of Education at this time were D. A. Bigelow, William West, D. S. Fairchild and Isaac Black, directors; John Watts, secretary; and W. F. Chevalier, principal.

The new building had six large classrooms, two of which were used for high school classes, and

four of which housed the primary and intermediate (grammar) grades. In addition to the classrooms, there was an office for the principal and basement restrooms.

About 50 students attended high school the first year at Central; however, only 11 were graduated in 1887.

School was in session from 9 to 12 in the morning and from 1 to 4 in the afternoon. A prayer service in the main hall opened the school day, and study and recitation periods were short. Between classes pupils marched from one room to another to piano music. Except for the two week vacation at Christmas, there were no holidays. Curricular offerings had been expanded but all courses were still required of all students for graduation. The courses offered in high school were Latin, algebra, American history, botany, physics, literature, rhetoric, and chemistry.

In 1891 M. F. Morgan, principal, made the following statement: "Our schools are open to all who wish to obtain a higher education. We do not wish you to come here with a misunderstanding of things. Make up your mind to what you wish to accomplish, have an object in view before entering, then submit willingly to the mental drills and discipline of your teachers."

The plan to house all of the school children of the community in the new building from first grade through high school proved outdated just six years later when the expanding enrollment in the primary grades made the reopening of old South School necessary. In 1900 bonds in the amount of \$1,000 were voted to build an addition to "Old" Central building. The election held March 19 brought out 211 men voters and 15 women.

The addition was to contain four more classrooms and a large assembly or study hall. Whether this unbelievably low cost or other factors were at fault, this addition was condemned in 1910. For more than 25 years Ames boys and girls recited in rooms bolstered by heavy timbers and avoided rhythmic activity such as marching or clapping which might set up catastrophic vibrations. Later, however, wrecking crews had trouble demolishing the building.

In March 1903 a special election was held for the purpose of issuing bonds to the amount of \$12,500 to build a school house in the First Ward. The result of this election left the school board in a peculiar predicament. The combined vote of men and women carried the proposition. The contract was let and the building was under construction when the board discovered that they could not dispose of the bonds; for by counting the votes separately the majority of the male votes were against, and the bonding companies would not handle the bonds under these conditions.

Several possibilities for adjusting the situation were suggested. The board considered issuing warrants and then trying to persuade the legislature to legalize it, but the final decision called for another election. The following vote count resulted: men voted 157 yes, 60 no—women voted 14 yes, 0 no. This school was completed in 1904. It was named "Beardshear" in honor of a president of Iowa State College.

The Beardshear School contained four classrooms and the principal's office, which by this time had become an established feature, and according to the Ames Intelligencer, has "all the modern conveniences." Men on the Board of Education at this time were L. H. Pammel, president; C. A. Duntz, M. K. Smith, Herman Knapp and George Baker, directors.

The need for a grade school in the Fourth Ward made necessary the building of Welch School, also named for an Iowa State President. Three hundred and two votes were cast in the election on March 12, 1906, to vote bonds for this planned \$9,000 construction; 288 votes were in favor and 14 votes were opposed. This building was erected the same year and contained four classrooms, a principal's office and a library. In 1910 at an added expense of \$1,500, modern improvements were added. Members of the Board were A. B. Noble, president; Henry Wilson, C. A. Duntz, J. Judge and W. W. Talbott, directors; Parley Sheldon, treasurer; and I. J. Scott, secretary.

In 1923, while undergoing remodeling the interior of Welch

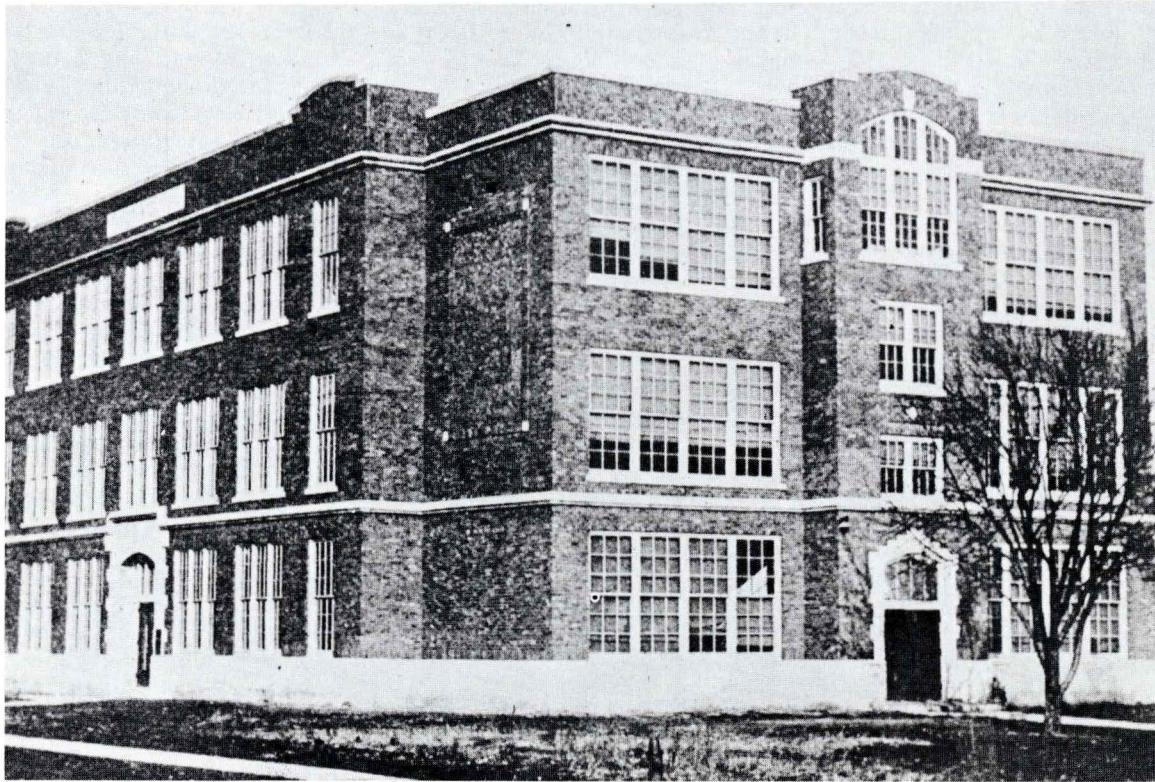
School was destroyed by fire. Repairs to the building cost the school district \$50,000. The fire occurred in August and the School Board was faced with the problem of finding classrooms for students entering in September. All available buildings in the surrounding camptown area were checked for possible conversion to classroom space; and with students in church basements, in Iowa State College classrooms, and in several temporary structures, school opened for Welch students on schedule.

Welch underwent enlarging and remodeling in 1927 and in 1937 the gymnasium was added.

Several improvements and additions had been necessary changes in "Old" Central as school attendances increased rapidly. In 1911 the school board unanimously decided there was an urgent need to alleviate the crowded situation at the high school. Enrollment had reached 307 for that year (ninth through twelfth grades) with only five rooms on the second floor available for high school classes (primary grades still filled the first floor classrooms).

The south side was also in need of a new building as the old one required \$2,000 in repairs. This amount did not seem advisable to spend on an old building. The board called for a new high school building on the north side and a ward building on the south side. On May 12, 1911, an election was held asking for \$100,000. In the total vote of 374, the men cast 235 favorable votes and 45 opposed; women voted in favor of the bonds 70 yes to 10 no. Fourteen votes were ruled illegal. On June 22 bonds were issued bearing 4½% interest and sold at a premium of \$1,500.

The most difficult problem in this construction was the choice of a site for the two buildings. Several sites were considered, all of them near "Old" Central to make possible the utilization of one outside heating plant for both buildings, in this way minimizing danger of fire. The final decision was referred to a special committee appointed by the President of the Commercial Club, L. M. Bosworth. The members of the committee which met with the Board were J. G. Tilden, Parley



High School, 1911-1937

Sheldon, W. M. Greeley, F. R. Conaway, L. G. Hardin, J. T. Grove, Ben Edwards, J. M. Munsinger and U. S. Griffith. The committee met with the board and, without a dissenting vote, recommended the purchase of the half block directly east of "Old" Central School. The ground was purchased for \$12,400 with the buildings included. The buildings were later sold at public auction. It was also necessary to buy part of the ground where the Episcopalian church stood and the church building was moved east of its former location.

An auditorium seating 700 people, a gymnasium in the basement, laboratory rooms, a large assembly room to accommodate 150 students, ten classrooms, superintendent's and principal's offices, rest rooms, library, botany room and domestic science and manual training rooms were the outstanding improvements in the new high school built at a cost of about \$75,000. A tunnel connected the two buildings with their shared heating plant.

E. W. Valentine of the Board of

Education in 1911, writing in the Ames **Intelligencer** October 5, was enthusiastic in explaining the broader curriculum made possible by the new facility, "A commercial and manual training course will be added to the high school course. The old building will be used exclusively for the grades and the frame building standing on the northeast corner of the grounds known as the "cob" house used for the second grade, will be dispensed with."

The south side school building when completed had four classrooms, two downstairs and two upstairs, a play room in the basement, a principal's office and a library. The materials in this building, as in the high school, were brick with stone trimmings. This building also had "all modern conveniences." In addition the first floor was fireproof. The citizens of the Third Ward were asked to name this new \$15,000 school and they chose "Lincoln."

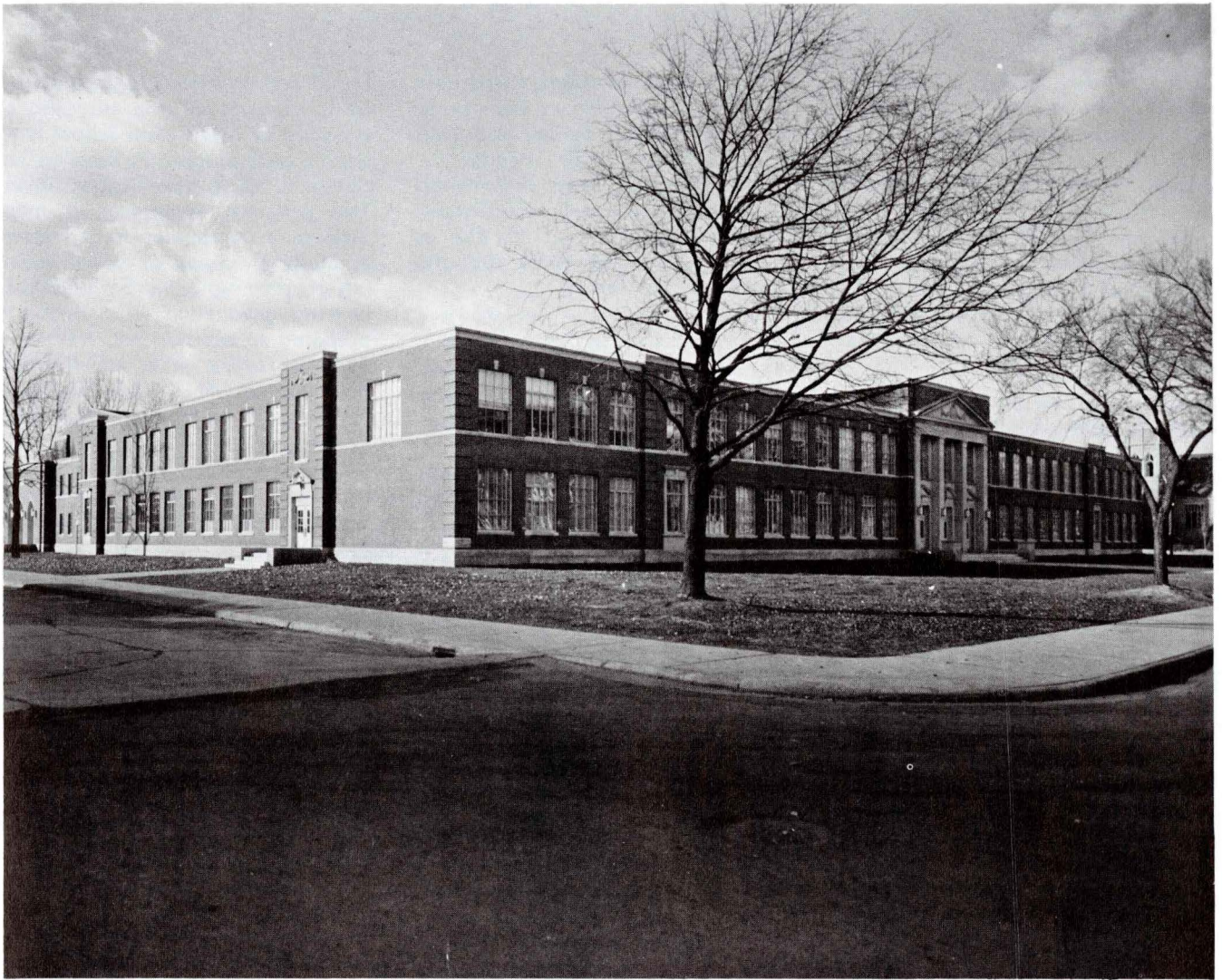
The Board of Education at this time included A. B. Noble, presi-

tine, G. E. Farnam and L. J. Baird, directors; C. H. Pasley, secretary; Parley Sheldon, treasurer; and F. W. Hicks, superintendent of schools.

In 1930 the "Old" Central High School was remodeled, and in 1937 further increases in enrollment forced more building. "Old" Central was razed and a new high school was built on the site.

The decision to build the new high school on the site was made after prolonged community discussion. The School Board had an option on a large site north of 13th Street on Grand Avenue. The plan to build in this area aroused great opposition from many people who considered the site too far from the center of the community. A referendum on the issue was held at the time of the annual school election and majority opinion favored building a new high school on the site of "Old Central."

This project brought about another very difficult period to find housing for students. With the old school torn down and the new one under construction, it was necessary



High School, 1937-1961

to hold half day sessions only for both junior and senior high school students in the building across the street. There were delays in the planning, designing, and construction of the new Central building until the receipt of an unexpected \$252,000 Federal PWA grant for construction of the auditorium and gymnasium. Until the time this grant was received, the plans had been made for classrooms only, and it was necessary to hold up construction of these original plans until the new plans for the additional space could be prepared.

The law required that the money be used for immediate construction, so the large basement was dug and barricaded in the coldest period of the winter in order to comply with the requirements. The actual building was started in the spring. In addition to the large auditorium, gymnasium, and regular

classrooms, the new high school contained laboratories for natural and physical sciences, an art room, a section for learning and practice in stenography and office procedure, woodworking and metal shops, and an area for home economics work in food preparation and serving, sewing and other phases of homemaking. This building served as the high school until the 1960's when it became a junior high school and a larger high school was built on a new site.

The football field and the Fieldhouse, built in 1927, were planned to be one of the finest athletic complexes in the state of Iowa. Near Lincoln Way and Grand Avenue, the stone walls and floor of the new building were built and the interesting roof of a pavilion which sat on the old Fair Grounds (now the Municipal Cemetery) was lifted on top and fastened into place.

The basketball floor was tiled and the folding backboards were put in place. At the south end of the basketball court, in a semi-circular indentation, a stage and balcony were constructed for class plays and graduation exercises. Two showers and dressing rooms were installed, one on the east and one on the west. A high school baseball diamond was located in the northeast corner and extended into the football field. On February 13 and 14 of 1928, the new Fieldhouse and playing field were dedicated.

When the "new" high school was built in 1937 with its basketball court and magnificent auditorium, the basketball court and the stage in the Fieldhouse were no longer used.

During the decade from 1920 to 1930, Roosevelt, Whittier, and Louise Crawford elementary schools were constructed. Louise Crawford

was a primary teacher in the Ames schools for many years. When Roosevelt School was opened in 1923 many people felt it was being built too far "out in the country." On the northern edge of the second ward residential district, it had several rooms unused in its very early years, but it is now in the center of a large school population area and has long been filled to capacity.

The three-year junior high school system had a gradual beginning in 1923-24 and reached its goal in 1926. The building of Roosevelt School also made possible the removal of all elementary pupils from "Old" Central, which became exclusively a junior high school with seventh, eighth and ninth grades. Welch School was organized as both a junior high and an elementary school, leaving tenth, eleventh and twelfth grades to attend the down town high school. Welch became wholly a junior high school in 1962 when the elementary pupils were moved to Louise Crawford, David Edwards, and the new Abbie Sawyer School, leaving more classrooms for the large Fourth Ward enrollment in the three classes.

Several decades passed before the erection of Warren H. Meeker and David Edwards Schools in 1950 and 1951 respectively, and Abbie Sawyer School which was occupied in the winter of 1962. Meeker and Edwards were named for men who had served many years on the Ames School Board, and Abbie Sawyer for a former principal of Louise Crawford School. These schools were built with classrooms outfitted with movable furniture which could be shifted to create flexible room arrangements. These schools represented new trends in school construction just as Welch and Roosevelt Schools showed marked differences and improvements in 1906 and 1923 over Old South School and Old Central. Gradually desks and equipment in the older buildings have been replaced with the newer types to make possible the many kinds of activities which must now take place in one room.

In the past ten years three new elementary schools have been built: Gertrude Fellows School and Kate Mitchell School, both named for former teachers; and Northwood School. Mitchell and Northwood opened their doors in the fall of 1970, one hundred years after the first school in Ames.

Many of the older schools have also been enlarged by additions. All elementary schools now have instructional materials centers and all the new schools have gymnasiums that are equipped with folding tables which make them usable for group meetings gathering for potluck suppers as well as for the programs and more strenuous physical activities performed in these expanded facilities.

In 1953 Ruth B. Willson School was built to replace Franklin School, a school for retarded children which for many years occupied a converted house. The Willson School was named for Ruth B. Willson, who had been for many years previous to her death the sole teacher at Franklin School.

The early 1960's brought transition, and the move from the downtown high school to the new Ames High started in the fall of 1961 as senior high students shuttled by bus between half day sessions in the old school building and half days in the new building. The new Ames High School, built on a 76-acre site at Sixteenth Street and Ridgewood Avenue, is built as three connecting units which were contracted and occupied at separate times between the years 1959 and 1963. The new units contain 50 classrooms, a study hall, vocal and instrumental music rooms, five music practice rooms, a cafeteria, a large basement, seven administration offices, five guidance offices, eight conference rooms, and a 12,000 volume library.

In the three classes (tenth, eleventh, and twelfth) attending the 1970-71 year the enrollment is more than 1,200. These students are taught by 84 full time faculty members and administrators.

The changes through the years in Ames High reach beyond the physical plant and are noted in a

broad and enriched curriculum. The basic purpose of the educational program of Ames High School is to enable each student to develop his potentialities to their highest level. The program recognizes it must prepare its graduates for advanced study in schools of higher learning or for employment immediately after graduation. The school is prepared to educate and train students to realize either aim through development of a comprehensive course of study for each individual.

But concern for education is not limited entirely to the youth of the community. In 1940 under Superintendent Leonard Steiger, the present extensive program of Adult Education had its organizational beginning. Since that time the growth in both number of classes offered and the number of adults enrolled has been steady. The program is influenced by the avocational interests of the adults of Ames and by their desire to perfect their skills. Any course for which 10 adults are enrolled and for which a competent teacher can be hired will be taught as a part of Adult Education.

In the 1880's sports formed an unofficial part of the high school curriculum. (Records state that students came to school for the sole purpose of gaining knowledge and no provision for activities was made.) In 1882 both boys and girls had basketball teams. Baseball was the only form of interscholastic competition at this time, and Ames played Nevada and other nearby towns. Another favorite sport in the '80's was tennis, usually played on the school grounds. Also, boys played marbles in the spring and fall, and in the winter skating and sliding were very popular.

In the past 30 years Ames High School has amassed an athletic record of championships which is outstanding. The track program and the track teams have dominated track throughout the state, and this record is probably unusual in the entire nation. Basketball teams have won the state title three times and have been named conference champions frequently.

Few extra-curricular activities existed in the early schools, with the



High School, since 1961

exception of literary societies. In the 1880's a society met every other Saturday night in the school building and irregularly prepared for publication a school newspaper. Later, two literary societies, the Dissenters and the Juntos, appeared. These two groups took turns presenting programs consisting of plays, readings, music, and orations every Friday afternoon. In 1888 a very select group of thespians called themselves the Shakespearean Club, and they were sponsored by one of the most popular teachers, Mrs. Potter.

Two of the earliest activities sponsored by the school were declamatory and debate. A Debate Club was organized in 1901, the first debate class was taught in 1904, and the State Debate League was joined in 1917.

A single publication of an annual, the **Meteor**, appeared in 1908, then in 1912 the **Spirit** had its in-

ception. This annual publication is still issued once a year, but its early issues appeared quarterly and included original poems and narratives of the students as well as reports of student activities.

On September 21, 1911, the first Ames High School paper was published, but it was 1928 when the present school paper, the **Web**, first appeared.

Many of the high school organizations and activities existing today appeared early in the century: Orchestra, 1908; Band, 1920; Glee Clubs, 1923-24; Student Council, 1924; Mixed Chorus, 1926; Pep Club, 1927; Library Club, 1934.

Through the years many honors and awards for work in activities have been won by Ames High students. In 1885 Miss Lillie Brown, representing Ames, placed second in the humorous division of the State High School Oratorical Contest in Nevada. In 1898 the Ames

Schools received the first premium in exhibition work at the Story County Fair; as a reward, several new books were added to the school library.

The honors and awards won by Ames High School students in recent years have been too numerous to mention. All the activities have shown growth in interest and popularity, until now they are an inseparable part of school life, augmenting and enriching the regular curriculum.

An ever-present desire for knowledge and improvement has brought Ames schools from two rooms in a frame schoolhouse, from only two teachers, from limited curriculums to modern, fully-equipped buildings, to a large faculty of well-trained instructors and to a broad, varied, and comprehensive curriculum which places the emphasis upon the characteristics and needs of the youth and society today.

Ames High School Graduates

Year	Number
1878	4
1880	5
1881	6
1883	12
1885	14
1886	10
1887	11
1888	8
1889	3
1890	9
1892	1
1894	4
1895	4
1896	4
1897	8
1898	15
1899	5
1900	12
1901	14
1902	10
1903	9
1904	10
1905	25
1906	38
1907	29
1908	49
1909	56
1910	56
1911	47

1912	50
1913	58
1914	59
1915	59
1916	64
1917	58
1918	65
1919	61
1920	73
1921	98
1922	72
1923	93
1924	93
1925	81
1926	94
1927	112
1928	127
1929	100
1930	131
1931	109
1932	132
1933	149
1934	147
1935	163
1936	151
1937	143
1938	160
1939	196
1940	186
1941	206

1942	173
1943	154
1944	160
1945	140
1946	163
1947	167
1948	160
1949	147
1950	145
1951	135
1952	151
1953	145
1954	172
1955	159
1956	175
1957	172
1958	167
1959	192
1960	225
1961	236
1962	227
1963	225
1964	304
1965	346
1966	373
1967	421
1968	380
1969	368
1970	411



Graduates of the Class of 1878

J. J. Grove
J. G. Johnston
A. B. Maxwell
Sally Winter Schmidt

Single Graduate of the Class of 1892

Alice Stuckslager Stockwell



80 years ago this Halloween



Selected Quotes from Early Board Minutes

First schoolhouse erected in 1868, \$25,000 bond, 10 per cent interest.

Summer, 1870, was the first summer school—three month term.

A four month term was held in the winter of 1870-71 by two teachers who were paid \$35 and \$50 per month.

In 1872, a teachers' fund tax of 10 mills was levied.

In September, 1871, application was made by citizens living on the east side of Skunk River to detach from Independent School District of Ames because of the difficulty of crossing the river to get to school.

In October, 1870, the president was authorized to "negotiate" and contract with the teachers on behalf of the board.

First textbooks, December, 1870, were "Wilson's Series of Readers and Spellers", "Robinson's Mathematical Series", "Sills Synthesis", "Welch's Analysis of the English Structure" and "Spencerian System of Writing".

Motion was made to dispose of old textbooks by giving them to neighboring districts. This motion was annulled at the next meeting, "to the interest of the district".

A committee was formed to "fix school-house lock on the door in order to make it effective".

In June, 1871, \$5 was paid for repair of a lightning rod.

In 1872, a lawsuit developed between Ames and Grant School District. Ames lost and had to pay \$55. No mention was made as to the nature of the suit.

In April, 1878, a \$3 fee was entered for schooling Mrs. Kellogg's daughter during the winter of 1871-72. In June, the fee was dropped to \$1.

On September 9, 1872, 12 cords of wood at \$4 per cord were or-

dered "to be delivered and measured at the school-house".

On September 30, 1872, resolved that two primary schools shall be kept during the winter, one to be located on the south side of the railroad tracks and one on the north side of the tracks. Mr. Lucas would rent an upper room in his building for \$7 per month. Teacher Christenson recommended that intermediate department be established instead of a division of the primary department. Moved to reconsider, making two primary schools. Discussion resulted in grading the schools primary, intermediate and grammar.

In September, 1872, moved to subscribe for one copy of the "Iowa State Journal".

In February, 1873, a committee was established to set the grades and classification of the three departments, primary, intermediate and grammar.

In March, 1873, purchased "Cornell's Series of Maps" which the teacher and the secretary of the board had picked out.

Closets were built in the classrooms as the result of action in May, 1873.

In the fall of 1873, it took several meetings and several ballots to select a teacher. All voting resulted in ties. Finally, the president made a motion and the teacher was chosen by acclamation.

An "assistant teacher" was hired for \$15 per month. Teachers were paid every two months.

On May 11, 1874, "Moved to dismiss all scholars under five years of age."

Teachers' pay was raised to \$70 per month in September, 1874.

In May, 1875, a \$2,000 bond issue to build a new school received 34 "yes" and one "no" vote.

In July, 1875, the bid of B. Bisee, for \$2,484.99 was accepted.

Entry of May, 1891: "Committee

on planting shade trees reported because of the terribly dry weather, nothing has been done."

Entry of June, 1891: "That some members of the Board be appointed to visit Loan and Trust Companies in Des Moines to ascertain at what terms the maturing bonds of the Ames Ind. School District can be negotiated at."

Later, "Dr. Fairchild's committee on refunding school house bonds made a report that the Iowa Loan and Trust Company would take the bonds at six per cent and furnish the blanks."

September, 1891, "That writing and drawing be introduced in the high school under the direction of the principal."

In October, 1891, a motion was made and carried that "P. R. Sugart be contacted for 100 tons of Squaw Creek Coal, more or less, to be delivered at school house at \$3.05 per ton."

Mr. Graves, Mr. Green and Mr. Walt were hired to guard the school property on Halloween, 1891.

Entry, June, 1892: "The board needs to discuss the question of providing for the relief of the crowded conditions at the north schools. An additional recitation room could be provided for in the high school by converting the cloak room in the upper hall into a recitation room and providing for cloaks and hats in the hall outside."

In November, 1892, Principal Carsleus recommended the purchase of a mimeograph.

In January, 1893, the first two year contract was offered and accepted by Principal Carsleus for \$1,250 per annum.

In January, 1893, the board instructed the secretary to "look up the matter of insurance on School Houses and if not insured, to place \$750 on the building and \$250 on contents in some reliable company."

From the Ames Intelligencer,
November 23, 1877

The regular monthly meeting of the School Board was held last Monday night.

As unfinished business the coal letting contract came up, and the bid of Messrs Wright & Little to furnish Squaw Creek coal at \$3.49 per ton was accepted.

Mr. Compton was appointed a committee to inspect and receive all coal furnished under the contract, and it was suggested that all the coal by right should be screened.

Upon motion, throwing snow was prohibited inside the school grounds, as if not so inhibited were generally apt to impose upon little ones, not wishing to join the sport.

Mr. Bigelow, for special committee on buildings and repairs reported the addition to the North side School House completed and ready for use except for the black board, which would be finished the present week.

Mr. Ashton appearing before the board and asking for repairs and a remodeling of the coal house on the north side, upon motion, a committee was appointed to tend to the want in that direction.

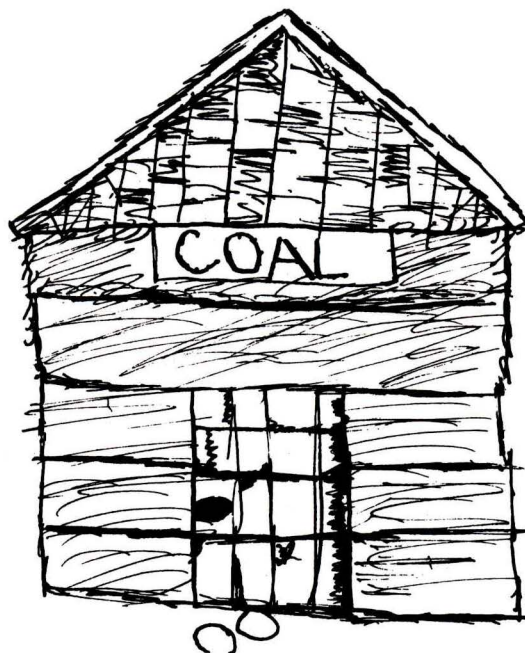
In taking up the matter of electing an assistant teacher for the principal's room, Mr. Ashton was called upon to state to the Board what would probably be the duties required of such person, and the necessary qualifications. After fixing salary, upon motion Miss Belle Chamberlain was elected as teacher.

The Board rather went back on the President's bill for three-fourths of a day's work by himself and man, for repairing, buildings, cleaning out the well, repairing the pumps, etc. on the south side grounds, together with an item of two pounds nails. The bill as presented called for twenty-five cents. It was laid on the table.

The Secretary was instructed to draw orders for the second month's salary of teachers.

The bill of J. E. Barber to the extent of \$10.50 was allowed. Tilden and McLain's bill for paint, etc. was allowed to the extent of \$3.00. The bill of Mr. Black for \$1.00 was allowed. The bill of Mr. Davis for drayage was allowed to the extent of 40 cents.

Screen coal



1877 . . .

The September 14, 1877, issue of the Ames Intelligencer contained the "Course of Instruction" for the 1877-78 school year.

Nine classes of school children attended two attendance centers, "North Side" and "South Side". At each location, two teachers taught three classes each. Principal George W. Ashton taught all students in the upper three grades.

The child, in his first year of school, studied reading "from charts and blackboards, with exercises in." Spelling was studied "both by letters and sounds." Drawing, done on the slate, consisted of "simple forms, letters, figures and other objects sketched by the teacher." Printing or writing was accomplished by doing the reading and spelling lessons, "two or more exercises per day."

It was by "Oral Instruction" that the first year child learned "days of the week, seasons, months; four points of the compass; parts of the human body; domestic animals; common objects; their size and col-

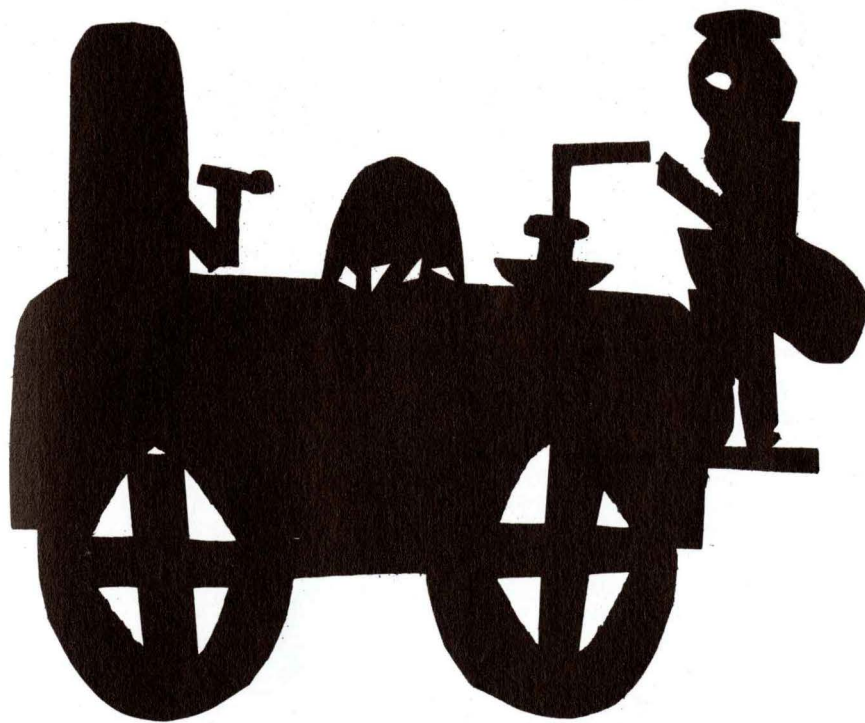
or and other observable properties; morals and manner."

Progressing to the second year, the child read in the first reader, "giving attention to punctuation, definition and illustration." His spelling words were selected from the reading lesson. In numbers he studied "notation and numeration—four places; Roman numerals to fifty."

In drawing, two or more exercises a day were done with slate and pencil. The student studied writing and printing by doing "lessons in spelling and arithmetic on slate or blackboard, also simple lessons in sentence making."

The teacher gave oral instruction in the "three kingdoms of nature; plants, roots, stems and leaves, colors, geography of district and township; manner and morals."

In the third year, the student read and reviewed the Third Reader, paying "careful attention to punctuation, definition and expression; drill on phonic elements with vowels marked as in Webster's



'and Manners and Morals'

Dictionary." Spelling words were taken from the reading lessons and the Elementary Speller, with words to be written and spelled orally by letters and sounds.

In numbers, the student studied "notation and numeration, six orders; addition and subtraction continued; multiplication and division, oral and written to 5's." Drawing was the same as the second year. Capital letters, period and interrogation points were learned in writing. The student received oral instruction in "animals and plants continued; geography of county and state; manners and morals."

Although it was labeled "General Exercises", the teacher had specific instructions: "Singing, four times a day not exceeding five minutes each time; physical exercise every hour, three to four minutes." However, "The oral instruction . . . may sometimes be made general; other grades reviewing."

The course of instruction for years four through eight became progressively less specific.

The ninth year, the last listed in the 1877 story, consisted of:

"Language—Clark's Normal Grammar

Mathematics—Arithmetic finished;

Elementary Algebra

Accounts—Bookkeeping (optional)

Drawing—Krusi, No. 3

Natural Science—Hutchinson's Physiology; physical geography

Politics—Civil government—Townsend's seventy lessons

History—Anderson's General History, 2

General Exercises—Vocal music, calisthenics, select reading, declamation and recitation, essays, oral instructions, natural sciences, manners and morals."

Today, the curriculum for the high school (as for the lower grades) is no longer determined solely by the school board as it was in the early years of Ames schools.

Curriculum determination is now a result of intensive participation of all teachers, administrators, and a concerned board of education. Many meetings during each school

year provide the workshop for teachers to share their ideas, attitudes, and materials. Curriculum is drafted with advice from university consultants, a review of other schools' current curriculum guides and direction of the Ames professional curriculum directors. As in the early curriculum, the course offerings today emphasize sequential and cumulative educational experiences.

With scheduling of the eight-period day in the fall of 1970, the curriculum expanded to add many full-year and one-semester courses. The program at Ames High School, 100 years after its founding, offers in three grades and ten departments, 99 full-credit courses:

—Four full years of French, German, and Spanish, and two years of Latin.

—Four full year and 17 one-semester English courses including composition, literature, reading, speech, and drama.

—Three full years and six one-semester social studies courses.

—Five full year and four one-semester mathematics courses.

—Six full year science courses.

—Six one-semester art courses.

—Four full year and six one-semester business education courses.

—Eight one-semester home economics courses.

—Eleven full year industrial education courses.

—And, in the full year of vocational education, the programs include distributive education, trades and industrial education, and office education, all of which have a related class at the high school. Cadet teaching and health occupation programs are offered each semester.

In addition, the high school offers one work-study class, 13 partial credit elective courses—including vocal and instrumental music and a four-phase programmed driver education program with three full time teachers—and approximately twenty clubs and activities.

The high school also has a director of guidance and seven counselors with equivalency of five full time counselors.

Ames High School opened in the fall of 1970, 100 years after the first school in Ames admitted students, with 89 regular and special staff members and 1,235 students studying throughout the week in 1,554 classes.

Old Fieldhouse remembered . . .

One score, 3-2

By Dennis Ostrem
Graduate Class 1964
(Web, February 25, 1964)

"The Ames team played a marvelous game on defense and never faltered from start to finish. On offense too its attack was hard and effective and only miserable luck at the basket held it from victory by a wide margin." This quote was taken from the Ames **Daily Tribune-Times** dated Monday, Dec. 10, 1934.

From all appearances the game described was a hard-fought, fast-moving contest. Information from several primary sources indicates that it actually was just so. But this is not indicated by the score. With 50 seconds left in the game, Muscatine stole the ball, brought it down court, and hit a basket from the outside, making the score at the gun Muscatine 3, Ames 2!

When a person first sees the score, he naturally thinks both teams used delay-game tactics. But according to Ray Donels, coach of the Ames team, this was absolutely not so! Ames High shot 36 times, all but three from close to the basket. Muscatine High tried 21 times, all from far out. "In those days," explains Mr. Donels, "there were two kinds of shots: the two-hand set from far out and the driving lay in. The one-hand shots which are so popular today were not heard of then." This tended to maintain an infrequency of high-scoring games.

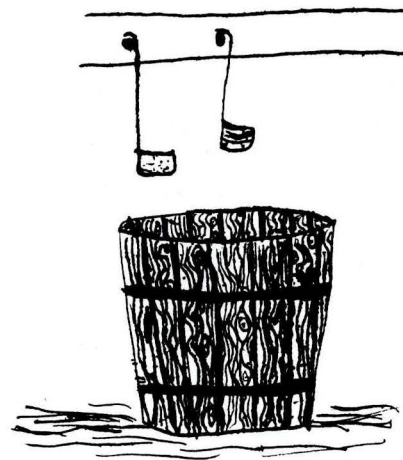
Other reasons for the low score are the conditions which existed in the public school's field house that Saturday night. Everett Ritland, assistant principal at Ames High, who has played many games in that gym, explained that the lighting was bad and the floor was covered with a substance which got all over the ball and the players' hands. Also, the basket rims, which were made by Allan Machine Shop, were heavy steel and were so rigid that the ball would not bounce around and go in, as it sometimes

does today, but would bounce away. "In other words," says Mr. Ritland, "the conditions were just not conducive to high scoring."

Scoring honors were shared by Menze of Ames and Anson of Muscatine, each with two points. Muscatine's Cornwaite connected on a free throw to account for the rest of the scoring. To understand the game it is necessary to know that after each basket the ball was brought back to center-court for a jump ball. On the opening tip of the game, Ames High's Menze grabbed the ball and raced down to score two points for Ames. On the second tip Muscatine controlled the ball and Cornwaite was fouled shortly. He made his gift shot and the score was 2-1 in favor of Ames. This score remained through the rest of the game until less than one minute was left in the last quarter when Muscatine's Anson hit the long shot, defeating the Ames team.

Four free throws were missed during the game by Ames, one by Craig, two by Menze, and one by Ryan. Muscatine missed two gift shots, both by Ahlf. Ames used only six men in the contest. These were the only ones drilled in the defense needed against the Muscatine style of play. The boys were coached in a zone defense to give other members of the squad practice against that type of play. The airtight Ames defense kept Muscatine entirely blocked from under the hoop. The six boys from Ames who played were Bob Craig and Robert Menze, forwards; Bill Bliss and Lawrence Owens, guards; and Claude Smith and Hilary Ryan, centers.

Several of the boys on the 1934-35 squad were juniors and saw much action that year. The next season the Ames High squad won the Iowa State basketball championship, the first ever won by an Ames team.



For Sale

By Steve Armstrong
Class of 1964, from the **Web**
(May 12, 1964)

Are you the man who has everything? Is your backyard too small? How about more parking space?

Maybe you're the sentimental type. Well, we have just the thing for you! A nice 14-acre patch of grass, your very own football field, and a slightly used basketball stadium—all this for only 83,000 Gold Bond stamps. We're talking about the football field and the old Field House, now up for sale by the school board.

In 1927 work began on what was to be one of the finest athletic complexes in the state of Iowa. The School Board purchased the pavilion which sat on the old Fair Grounds (now the Municipal Cemetery). Near Lincoln Way and Grand Avenue the stone walls and floor of the new building were built. The roof of the pavilion was lifted on top and fastened into place.

The basketball floor was tiled and the folding backboards were



put in place. At the south end of the basketball court, in a semi-circular indentation, a stage and balcony were constructed for class plays and graduation exercises.

Two showers and dressing rooms were installed, one on the east and one on the west.

A huge four-oven furnace in the basement could consume two and one-half cubic yards of coal in one day.

The outlines of the track and football field have not changed to this day, but in 1927 an alley cut across the north end of the field. A high school baseball diamond was located in the northeast corner and extended into the football field. Benjamin Franklin Elementary School was located on the present site of the Ruth B. Willson School on the east. On Feb. 13 and 14 of 1928, the new Field House and playing field were dedicated.

During the next 10 years the Field House, the playing field, and the practice field were used almost every day, as it is now, by the var-

sity football and track teams. All basketball practices were held inside. Every day physical education students walked from the high school to the Field House, dressed there, then played in or around it.

Junior and senior class plays were held on the stage at the south end of the basketball court. In the spring graduation exercises and Baccalaureate were staged in the Field House.

The Boys' State Basketball Tournament was held in the Field House in 1936.

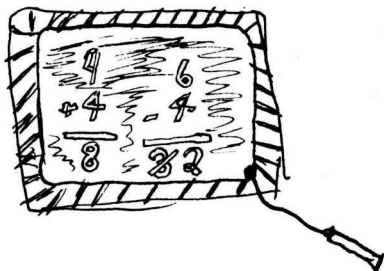
When the "new" high school was built in 1930 with its basketball court and magnificent auditorium, the basketball court and stage in the Field House were put to pasture. During the Second World War they were recalled to service, however, and used as a recreation area by troops training at Iowa State.

Today the only people who see the inside of the Field House (except for athletes using the showers) are the custodians and the grounds keepers and the sparrows.

Windows are constantly being broken by rock-throwing children. The once magnificent basketball floor is now used for storage. Lawn mowers and discarded pipes lie scattered about. In the center of the floor is a 13-foot high stack of wooden desk tops. In the north corner, sit 50 large cardboard boxes; 26 bales of snow fence are on the east bleachers; uncounted numbers of wooden desks are stacked on the west; above the stage hang several forlorn strips of orange and black crepe paper.

After 36 years of constant use, the showers no longer smell like the great out-of-doors. The cast-iron water pipes are rusting through. Names painted in the locker rooms and showers date back thirty years. The folding backboards on the basketball court hang askew. The hoops are gone.

The memories tied up in the Field House are worth thousands of dollars in themselves: Junior-Senior Proms, class plays and basketball games.



First school now a home

By Becky Seim
Class of 1970

Harvey Taylor, a spry man of 86, has made many contributions to the affairs of the Ames community—especially to its schools. And, fittingly, his 102 year old home at 1006 Lincoln Way is the first school building, erected in 1869, for the people of Ames. The center section of his house is the original structure of the school.

This center area is now a kitchen but signs of a one-room school-house are still evident. The three doorways and thresholds are the original frames and moldings of the first school building.

A sink installed on the east side of the kitchen marks the place where the original entrance was located.

Attached to the west side of the house is a small addition built to handle the school's "growing population." This section now serves as a small work area and bathroom. The attic above the kitchen still reveals the mortar outline from the old chimney.

The east end of the house, built a few years later, also contains many strange and interesting relics of the past. In the far corner stands one of the first radios manufactured, and close by stands an old windup phonograph, all in excellent working condition. "Yes sir," explained Mr. Taylor, "this is one of Mr. Edison's brilliant ideas!"

The southeast corner of the room, however, is perhaps the most fascinating and historical "nook" in

Ames. Objects in this area range from a 150-year-old Pennsylvania squirrel gun that was made by Mr. Taylor's grandfather to a 250-year-old powder gun brought to Iowa by a cousin in the Mormon movement.

In the same part of the room, English candle molds are displayed along with Civil War cannon balls and petrified fish! "None of these here," said Mr. Taylor, "are here just to look at, by jove! They are all connected historically with someone in the family or in the city." The candle molds are still used by Mr. Taylor for the Cub Scouts and Campfire Girl groups in which he still takes an active paternal role.

Along with candle making for youth groups, he is also well-known for the flag poles he has made and given to the groups' camps and to the schools of Ames.

Mr. Taylor is not the only member of his family active in the affairs of Ames. His children attended Ames High School and his daughter, Mrs. Donald Davidson, still lives here.

Three generations of Taylors have been graduated from Ames High—one almost every thirty years. Mr. Taylor was graduated in 1907,

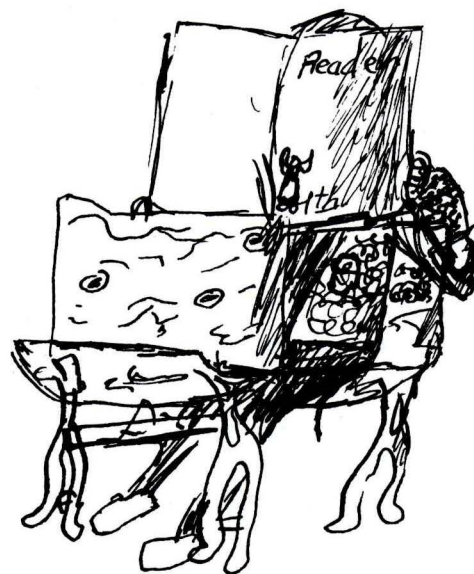
Mrs. Davidson in 1938, and her daughter Ann was graduated with the class of 1970. An aunt also was graduated in 1889.

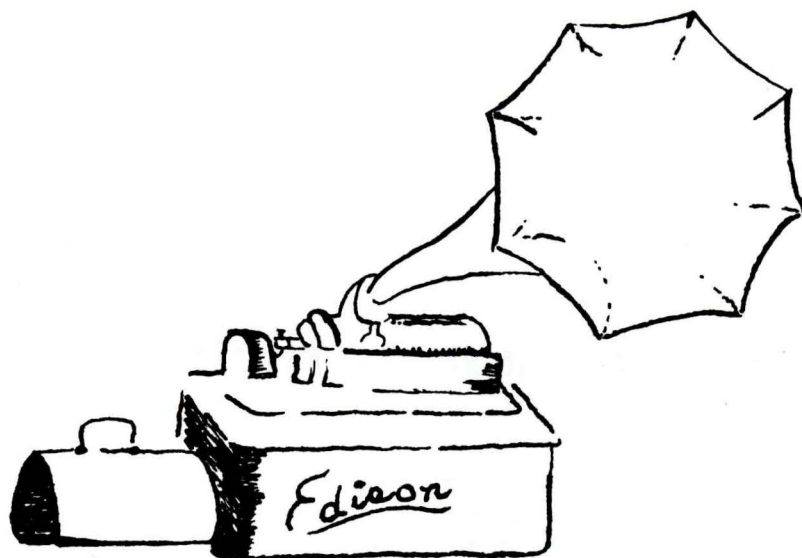
Mr. Taylor remembers much about his school. His class of 1907 was the first to have a yearbook. But it was edited by the junior class, he admits! He smiled when he quoted his class motto, "We finish to begin!"

The credit for discovering that this year marks the 100th anniversary of the Ames schools belongs to Mr. Taylor. "My wish is to have a big parade honoring the school centennial," he says.

Ames' Harvey Taylor is a dedicated senior citizen and local historian. His ideas, his collections, his memories, and his flag poles have all contributed to the community and the schools. Many plaques and medals hang on the walls of his home commending Mr. Taylor for his loyalty and contributions to civic affairs.

On a table close to the doorway of his landmark home lies a large antique, well-preserved Bible. When people stop to admire it, Mr. Taylor is noted for replying, with a wink of his eye, "By jove, if a Bible is laying out, it carries weight, if it is read or not . . ."





Ames Senior High School

When the first public school in Ames was opened in the summer after the Independent School District of Ames, Story County, Iowa, was established in May 1870, a two-room country school, built where Lincoln School stands today, became the first of many Ames schools. All grades were housed in South School.

Then in several moves with the growth of the town, two more temporary schools were added: a small house across the street from the present library and rented rooms above the downtown stores. In 1875, with a \$4,000 appropriation, a four-room wooden school was built on the corner of Eighth Street and Kellogg Avenue.

In these early schools each student progressed at his own rate, moving independently from one book to the next. The high school offered only arithmetic, algebra, American history, rhetoric, and physiology to all students.

School was in session five days a week from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with an hour for lunch. And, each school year consisted of two terms, three months in the winter and four months in the summer. The only school holiday was Christmas.

In 1882, "old" Central was built to house the growing enrollment. The six rooms in the school were allotted four to grammar school and two to high school. At this time

the high school curriculum also expanded to include Latin, botany, physics, literature, and chemistry, with still no independent choice of subjects for the student.

A new high school was built in 1912—today referred to as East Wing. This building cost \$75,000 and had many modern advantages: an auditorium to seat 700 people, a gymnasium, a number of manual training rooms, and several domestic science rooms. This school was connected to "old" Central by a tunnel for the purpose of heating the two buildings.

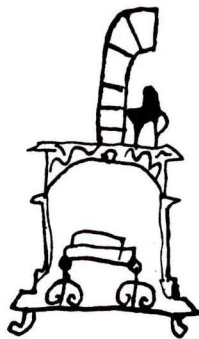
After 1890, both curricular and extra-curricular offerings were increasing for high school students. Football was a new activity in 1900. To accommodate many of these new activities, a football field with a field house was built in 1927 near Lincoln Way and Grand Avenue. It had a basketball court, a stage and balcony for class plays and graduation, and two locker rooms. The field house was torn down and a new field and track were built when the high school was moved to its new site in 1961.

In 1930, the "new" high school built in 1912 was remodeled but the system felt the need for a new school. "Old Central" was torn down in 1938 and a new Central high school was built in its place. Students attended half days at East Wing until Central was completed.

In addition to the original plan for classrooms, a Federal PWA grant of \$252,000 made possible the construction of a large auditorium and a gymnasium. When Central was completed it housed the entire high school—East Wing and Welch held the three years of junior high school classes.

In the late 1950's the need for another high school was again apparent. In 1961 the present high school building opened on 76 acres of land on the corner of Sixteenth Street and Ridgewood Avenue. The school, built in three sections, each of which was contracted and built separately, housed students during much of the construction period. Buses shuttled students from Central to the high school for half day sessions at each building. Today the high school and campus contain 50 classrooms, seven administrative offices, a study hall, vocal and instrumental music rooms, an 12,000 volume library, a cafeteria a football field and track, a large gymnasium, and share the Ames Municipal Swimming Pool.

Now the high school houses more than 1,200 students (in three classes) who drive their own cars and have schedules arranged for them by computer. The school offers honors classes for students with high ability and classes for students with particular needs and interests—vocational or academic.



Beardshear

Beardshear School, located at 201 E. 9th Street, received its name from William M. Beardshear. Mr. Beardshear served as President of Iowa State College (Iowa State University) from 1891-1902 and exerted considerable influence on the educational program in the Ames Community.

Beardshear School, the oldest elementary building now in use, was constructed in 1903 as a four room ward school. In 1923 an addition allowed it to function as a complete one unit building.

Some early students can recall lining up to the music from a phonograph and marching single file into the building. Many also recall the vast fields which were necessary to cross to get to the Beardshear building. The tradition of caroling at Christmas has continued through the years at Beardshear. Many former students and parents return annually to participate in this activity.

The student population has fluctuated from 260 to a traditional number of approximately 210. The average walking distance from the Beardshear building is four blocks which allows it to operate with a true neighborhood school concept.

The principalship at Beardshear School has changed hands a number of times since its origin. Recent principals include: Nellie Iverson, Hazel Likely 1928-1945, and Evelyn Carlson 1945-1969. Lowell Hockett was succeeded by Leland Himan in 1970.

The Beardshear School, as well as other schools in the system, has changed from the traditional self-contained classroom concept to a modified self-contained concept to the present program of an individualized sequential learning plan. The current program emphasizes the use of all available equipment and personnel to meet each individual's needs.

The Beardshear area looks forward to the day when its building will be up dated structurally to help carry out the individualized program. Hopefully, this day is not too far in the future.

Central Junior High

The cornerstone of the old Central building was laid in 1881, and the building completed in 1882. Located on the site of the present Central Junior High School, west building, the building had an auditorium, but **no gym**. A new addition was completed in 1900.

In 1911 a bond issue was voted to construct a new high school. The new building, presently designated as Central East-Wing, was completed in 1911-1912. The new high school featured an auditorium, a gym, laboratory facilities, manual training rooms and domestic science rooms.

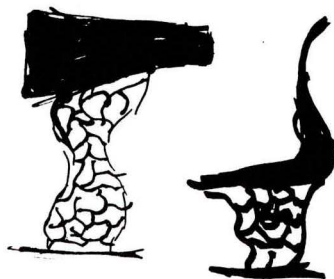
In 1923 Central School became known as Central Junior High School. Temporary buildings north of old Central housed the ungraded room and some of the fifth and sixth grade class rooms. When Roosevelt elementary school was ready for occupancy in the fall of 1924, the elementary grades were transferred to that school.

In 1937, building plans were drawn up for a new Ames High School to be located on the grounds where the Central building stood, and old Central was torn down. For several months, the junior high classes and senior high classes shared the old high school building, with a schedule as follows: high

school classes, 7:30-12:00; junior high classes 12:30-5:00. When Ames High School was completed in 1939, the old high school building became the new Central Junior High School.

In 1937, enrollments had increased to the point that it was necessary for junior high school classes to meet in some vacant building, the old high school as well as rooms rented from various churches. For a short period of time, while the new Ames High School was being constructed at the 20th Street site, Central and high school classes again shared facilities. In 1962, when high school classes moved out to their new building, the old high school as Sixth and Clark was renamed Central Junior High School, and the building across the street, formerly called Central Junior High, was named Central East-Wing.

Traditions of Old Central still carried out include the annual chicken supper in the fall and the spring breakfast, both well attended by the Central staff. From 1923 to 1957 Verna Schmidt was principal of Central Junior High School. In 1957 she retired, and the present principal, Lloyd Eilts, was named to succeed her.



Fellows

Gertrude Fellows Elementary School was originally known as Northwestern School and was housed in the north wing of the Senior High School building in 1960. Mr. Dale Brentnall was the principal.

The first year, grades 1-5 were housed in the building and in the second year kindergarten and sixth grade were added.

Mr. Brentnall served as principal for two years. He was followed by Mr. Don Carlson, who also served two years.

In 1964, Mr. Marvin O'Hare became the principal of Northwestern. At this time, some classes were housed at Northminster Presbyterian Church. Mr. O'Hare served as principal through the 1966-67 school year.

On October 16, 1966, the children moved into the new Gertrude Fellows School.

Located on 20th Street at McKinley Drive, the building is a one-story brick building with a distinctive copper flashing. All classrooms have a single metal door and a pair of large glass sliding doors leading to the outside.

The original building contained 16 classrooms, a library, gymnasium, offices, restrooms and a teachers' lounge.

The building was dedicated as Gertrude Fellows School on April 30, 1967. A dedicated teacher in the Ames school system for many years, Miss Fellows was present at the dedication.

The building originally held 515 students in 1966. An addition was undertaken in the late summer of 1968 and was nearly enclosed by mid-winter. The new addition provided additional space for an art room, a music room, large activities room, smaller areas for speech therapy, remedial reading, an office, a work room and a large instructional materials center.

Mr. Brentnall returned to Fellows as principal in 1967.

Edwards

The David Edwards School was built during 1951 and 1952, and opened in September, 1952. It was a single-unit (seven classroom) school building with 235 pupils. Like Meeker School, it was one of the most modern, innovative elementary school buildings built anywhere in that year. One of its features, still unique today, is its Auditorium which was designed for school use and for other community use. Though the school was not inexpensive to build, it is proving to be, as expectedly planned, one of the least expensive because of high original quality and less expensive upkeep.

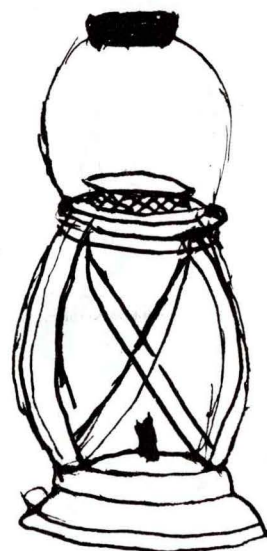
It was named after Mr. David Edwards who served as a member of the Ames Board of Education almost 18 consecutive years.

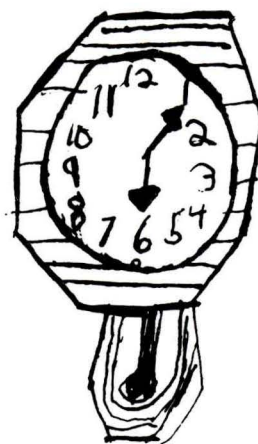
A six room addition was added to Edwards, and it was opened in September, 1956.

In 1958, one of Edwards' Second Grade teachers, Miss Jean Listebarger (now Mrs. Robert Humphrey of Ames) was highly honored as Iowa's Teacher of the Year, and the U.S. Teacher of the Year. She was honored personally by both Governor Loveless and President Eisenhower.

One of the first Elementary School Student Councils was created in 1954.

The David Edwards School has had only one Principal and one Custodian. It was opened by Principal Elmer Aurand and Custodian Bayerd Lande.





Lincoln

The present Lincoln Elementary Building stands on the Third Ward School site, which was the first "real" school in Ames. "Real" is the term given to the Third Ward School in the Ames School District Board minutes. The old building was sold November 6, 1911 for a sum of \$325.00 and the outside "closets" brought \$22.25.

On June 26, 1911 the Ames School Board awarded contracts for the construction of Lincoln School, the name was given on August 19, 1911. The General Contract was awarded to the Ennis Construction Company on a bid of \$11,900.00. The Heating and Plumbing was awarded to Lewis and Kitchen for \$2,090.00 and the electrical contract went to Ames Engineering for \$165.00.

The building originally was composed of four classrooms, 2 rest rooms, a furnace room, a storeroom and two small office areas. The building was opened in 1912 with Alice Williams as Principal. The foregoing describes the west half of the present structure.

The enrollment at Lincoln School increased steadily, therefore, the Ames Board of Education decided to submit a bond issue to enlarge it. On May 20, 1919 a proposal was placed before the people for an expenditure of \$40,000 to place an addition on Lincoln School and Welch School. The bids which were submitted were too high due to the large increase in the cost of

building materials. All bids were rejected.

A special election was held April 8, 1920, to increase the issuance of bonds to \$50,000 for the construction of additions to Lincoln and Welch. The issue passed.

Ben J. Cole received the bid on the Lincoln first addition for \$34,000. This addition includes the southeast corner of the building.

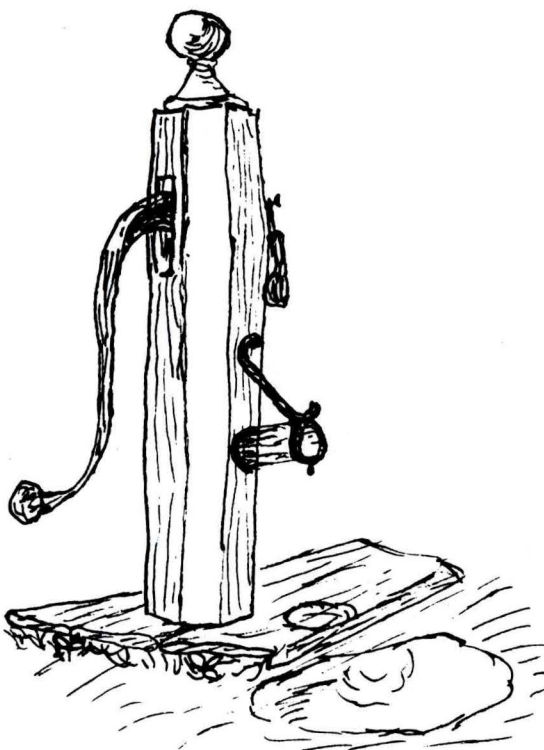
Lincoln Elementary School continued to increase in enrollment, the board voted to send some children to the Roosevelt School to alleviate crowded conditions. Transportation was provided during the "cold" months by the Yellow Cab Company at a cost of \$50.00 per month.

On March 15, 1926 the proposition was submitted to the voters for approval of the second addition to Lincoln School (\$20,000). The issue passed.

The second addition is the northeast corner of the present structure, now housing the kindergarten, second grade and one fifth grade. This addition is noticeable as a blue brick was used in construction, rather than red. This addition now made the building complete, as it now stands.

Mrs. Kate Mitchell served the longest term as Principal, 38 years, retiring in 1952. The last Principal was James Seim, 1957-70.

The spring of 1970 marked the end of the use of Lincoln School as an attendance center. The building now houses administrative offices.



Whittier

The history of Whittier School is closely associated with the development and expansion of the Iowa Highway Commission at its present location on Lincoln Way. As the Commission grew in size and the number of employees increased, new residences were established in the area around Lincoln Way and west of the Commission offices and buildings.

The children living in this area attended either Roosevelt to the north, across both a busy highway and a hazardous railway; or Lincoln to the east—again having to cross hazardous streets and railroad tracks. The distances were both long and fraught with dangers—real and imaginary! As a result, parents in the area actively promoted the establishment of a new school in the area of Hazel and Maple streets.

Mrs. Bessie Mullica, a long time resident of Ames, was interviewed by some members of the 1969-70 Whittier sixth grade class. She provided many interesting highlights and details concerning Whittier.

She loaned us a yellow, blotter-like flyer (probably the only one remaining of thousands) that she and many other mothers distributed as a means of publicizing their concerns.

So it was that a \$50,000 bond issue was voted and in 1926 the school became a reality at the actual cost of \$42,950. The building was then named in honor of John Greenleaf Whittier, a Massachusetts poet and song writer.

Records show an enrollment for that first year of 98 students in grades kindergarten through four. Miss Myrtle Edgington was the first principal of Whittier (also teaching first grade). Lucille Elledge taught Kindergarten, Velma Brown second grade, and Fern Hooker taught a combination third and fourth grade class.

In 1933, Ruth Heller replaced Miss Edgington as principal. She was followed by Adella Grobee, who had previously taught first grade at the newly built Louise Crawford School. In 1953, Dale

Brentnall became the first man principal of Whittier, in addition to sharing teaching duties at the sixth grade level. In 1967, Mr. Brentnall left Whittier to assume the principalship of the new Gertrude Fellows School located on 20th Street in Ames. That same year, Mr. Gaylord Tryon came into the Ames system to become the fourth principal of Whittier School. Glenn Conner is the present principal.

In August of 1934, because of over-crowded conditions, it became necessary to move the superintendent's office and staff from the junior-senior high school located on the east side of Clark Street and Sixth Avenue. The office was then established at Whittier until July, 1939, when it was moved to the new Senior High School at 6th and Clark—presently the central Junior High School building.

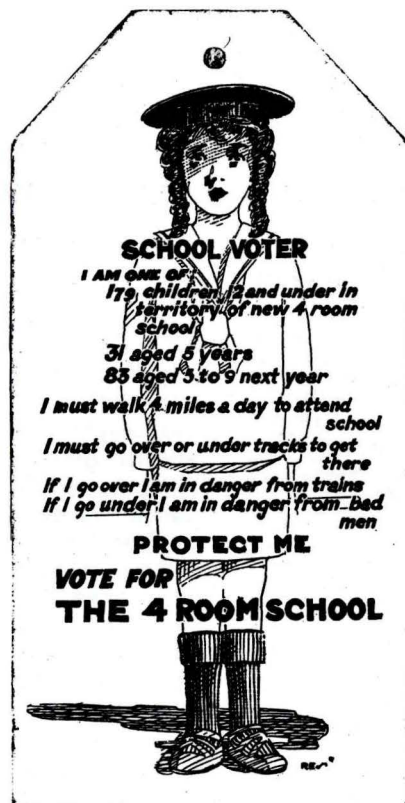
The Whittier area continued to grow, and as a result, an ever increasing enrollment problem to contend with. It became evident that the Whittier building would have to be expanded to accommodate the population increase.

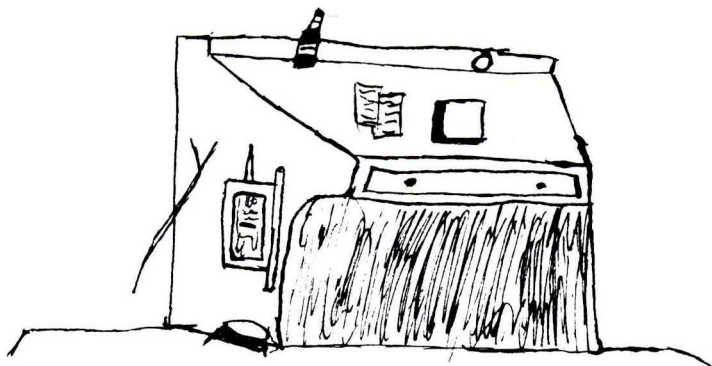
In 1956, an addition was added to Whittier that included 3 classrooms, a multi-purpose room, kitchen, and a small storage room in the basement. The kitchen has been used as a nurse's room, remedial room, board room, and currently as the principal's office—but never for kitchen purposes.

The principal's office on the second floor is now being used by our elementary guidance counselor, the first position as such in the Ames system.

The educational program of the Ames Public Schools has continued to expand and improve over the years. One example of this improvement is the instructional materials center concept that Ames has pioneered in the state of Iowa the past two years. To provide facilities for this concept at Whittier, a portable classroom was moved in and located to the west of the existing building.

This is a brief history of Whittier School. Once a four room school with a staff of 4, to a nine room school with a staff of 19 people. As it was in 1926, it still is in 1970—dedicated to the children and parents that have come and gone through its open doors.





Harlan

The original building was built in 1906 with additions being built in 1914, 1920, 1923, and the gymnasium in 1939. The building originally served both elementary and junior high students. However, pressured by increased enrollments and expanded educational opportunities, the building served only junior high students from 1962 to 1968. During the fall and winter of 1968 the junior high moved to their new facilities located on State Avenue, thus, vacating the building for its new occupants, the Harlan students and staff. The building was named in honor of John E. Harlan who served in the building as principal for twenty-nine years.

The school enrollment was at its high of 454 during the 1968-1969 school year. The enrollment is expected to wane as new schools are completed, thus, lessen the need to send children from their neighborhoods.

Harlan School in its first year of existence was in essence "Two-Schools-In-One". The school was organized vertically as a continuous progress center (K-4) and a graded center (5-6). The continuous progress center was organized horizontally on a semi-self-contained basis with individualized instruction in reading and mathematics. The graded center comprising of one fifth and nine sixth grade classes was horizontally organized on a semi-departmental basis with the classes grouped heterogeneously. A no report card philosophy prevailed. Parent-teacher conferences, profiles, and checklists were in lieu of the traditional mode of communication. The 1969-1970 program and philosophy remained the same. However, the fifth grade was added to the continuous progress program.

Sawyer

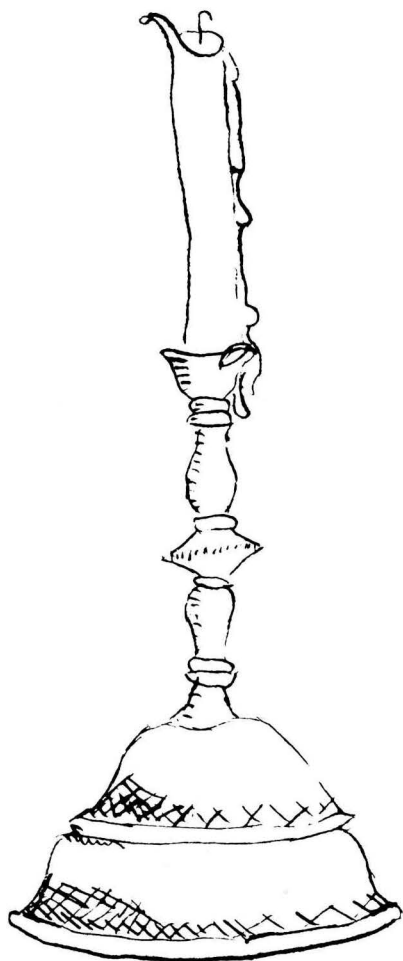
Abbie B. Sawyer Elementary School was completed in 1962 and was first occupied in November of that year.

The school is named in honor of Miss Abbie B. Sawyer, who served as a teacher and principal in the Ames Schools for thirty-five years prior to her retirement as principal of Louise Crawford School in 1952. Miss Sawyer was a pioneer in the kindergarten field, having established the first kindergarten class in Ames about 1917. A dedication program and open house was held at the school on April 7, 1963. Miss Sawyer was present as guest of honor.

The original building consists of thirteen classrooms, a gymnasium, office suite and related facilities.

In the spring of 1968, a \$3.9 million bond issue was voted by the citizens of the Ames community for the purpose of constructing several schools and additions including the addition of seven classrooms, a large instructional materials center, an art room, and other facilities at Abbie Sawyer. The addition, completed in the fall of 1969, provides for a three-section school of some 500-600 students.

The complete and well-planned physical plant is situated on a thirteen-acre site and provides the pleasant atmosphere and functional facilities needed for a modern elementary school program.

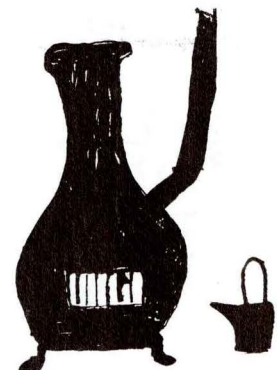


Willson

Ruth B. Willson School was constructed during the 1951-1952 school year and was opened to Ames pupils for the fall term beginning in September of 1952. The building was designed to serve disadvantaged and deprived children on an individualized basis in a program of studies related to the identified academic limitations of the pupils enrolled. The school was named in honor of Mrs. Ruth B. Willson, a long-time teacher of the handicapped children in the Ames School District.

Prior to the construction of the present Ruth B. Willson School, the Ames Community Schools operated Franklin Opportunity School on the same site now used for Willson. Franklin School started operations in 1932 and continued serving children for the next twenty years. This school was housed in a two-story frame house redesigned to accommodate about fifteen pupils. The school, located just to the north of the present building, was razed during the summer prior to the opening of the Ruth B. Willson School.

Willson School has been in continuous operation since 1952. It has provided an educational environment for academically handicapped pupils in an ungraded structure utilizing the continuous progress concept. Approximately twelve teachers have served about one-hundred and thirty pupils during the past eighteen years in this academic setting. Twenty to twenty-six pupils are enrolled in Willson each year, making an aggregate of about four-hundred pupils during the period from 1952 to the present time.



Roosevelt

In 1922 the schools in Ames were becoming crowded. Many new homes were being built north of the railroad tracks. There was a need for more classroom space for the children in this area. The board discussed plans for a new school in the 2nd Ward. Land was purchased between 9th and 10th street, west of Grand Avenue.

In May of 1923 the board hired the R. C. Elvin Co. as contractors for the new 2nd Ward School.

In January of 1924 the board selected the name Roosevelt School for the 2nd Ward School, and named Miss Abbie Sawyer as the first principal.

The Roosevelt School opened its doors to children in the fall of 1924, with two classes each of kindergarten, first, second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth grades.

The history of the Roosevelt School has been one of having a great number of exceptionally fine and dedicated teachers serving the pupils of the school. Two new elementary buildings in Ames have been named after teachers serving at Roosevelt, the Abbie Sawyer Elementary, and the Gertrude Fellows Elementary. Two other principals, Katherine Cooper and Lawrence Simmering, gave many years of service to the Roosevelt School.

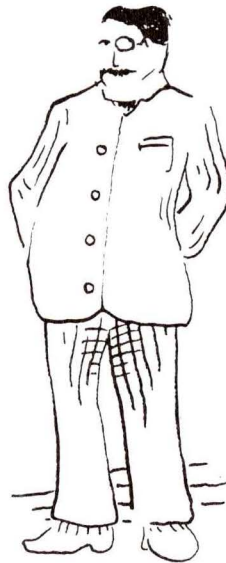
There has been a long history of a very active P.T.A., which was

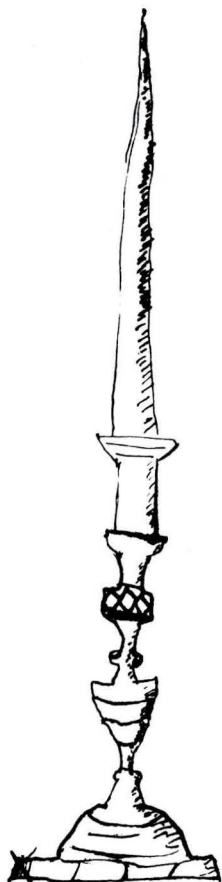
formed even before the school opened in 1924. The records show the P.T.A. extended an offer to the board to share in the cost of a new piano for the school before the school opened in the fall of 1924.

Many, many second generation students have attended Roosevelt, and even some third generation students. Many second generation students are having the privilege of receiving instruction from the same teacher their parents did.

During the latter part of the 1960's, the board made plans to improve and expand facilities at Roosevelt. During the 1968-69 school year a new instructional materials center, multipurpose room, band room, new office space, nurse's room, and conference rooms were added. A total of 10,900 square feet were added to the building. These fine new facilities are proving to be a great improvement in the learning environment for the Roosevelt children.

Over the years the Roosevelt School has served the children living between Kellogg Avenue and west to Brookside Park, and much of the area now served by Whittier Elementary north to 16th street. There were times in those past years when basement rooms had to be pressed into service to accommodate the growing Ames population.





Crawford

The Child and His School
The Child and His Work
The Child and His Parents
The Child and War

These topics could most assuredly have comprised the yearly program for Crawford PTO in 1969, instead of 1936, as was the case. Looking back over four decades of Crawford history, one encounters countless names of youthful students, dedicated staff, and interested parents who have contributed to the development of Louise Crawford School, its traditions, and its reputation of educational excellence.

Louise Crawford School was constructed in 1930 and the first school year began in September of that year with an enrollment of 108 students and a staff of five. Mrs. Elsie Hayes Anderson was principal and fourth grade teacher. Mildred Myers taught third grade, Irene Lassen second grade, Adella Grobee first grade, and Verna Losee taught the first kindergarten class.

The building had five rooms and cost \$40,000 to construct. It was to serve an area bounded by Lincoln Way, Sheldon Avenue, Beach Avenue, and Storm Street. The campus of Iowa State College was also included in the district. It had ample playground space which was bounded on the east by Stanton Avenue and on the west by railroad tracks. On these tracks, behind the school, ran the "Fort Dodge and Des Moines Southern." For many years the little train made daily

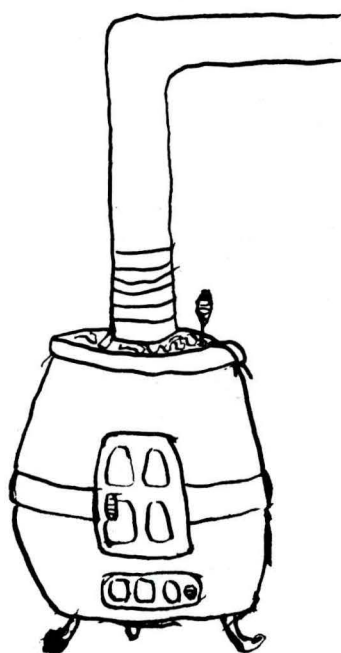


trips to Ames, carrying coal to the power plant at the college.

Dedication of the new school building was held early in the Fall of 1930. Mrs. Louise Crawford, for whom the school is named, was a prominent Ames teacher, who during her lifetime had taught for 17 years at Welch Elementary School. Mr. F. H. Mann, who was at that time president of the school board, gave the address and made the formal presentation of the building to the students. The newly formed Crawford PTA, under the presidency of Mrs. E. W. Lindstrom announced plans for the acquisition of a piano and a radio for the new school.

Miss Abbie Sawyer became principal of Louise Crawford School in September, 1932, and served in that capacity for the next 20 years. Under her guidance the academic program flourished and its extra curricular activities ranged in scope from a maypole ceremony to a "Pet and Hobby Show" and circus. Kathleen Kildee was the first Crawford May Queen, and the first Pet and Hobby Show had over 80 entries, including owls, dogs, and dolls. This even was advertised by a parade of school children through the nearby residential area headed by a band featuring instruments as varied as mouth organs, drums, dishpans and frying pans. Admission was 10 cents, and prizes and ribbons were awarded for the best entries.

In May of 1933 the "Curious Consolidated Circus" of Crawford



Welch Junior High



The original Welch Junior High School was constructed in 1906 at 120 South Hyland Avenue and named after the first president of Iowa State University, Mr. Welch. Although it was designed as an elementary school it served as both an elementary and junior high school for sixty years. In the fall of 1968 the building was renamed John E. Harlan Elementary School.

The present Welch Junior High School was opened in the fall of 1968 with the students attending

classes in the midst of construction which was completed in April 1969. The building is the first building built in Ames for the specific purpose of educating junior high school students. It contains many features that permit a great deal of flexibility in the educational program. Welch Junior High School will presently house 550 students and with the addition of a few classrooms the building will have a capacity of 750 students.

featured a menagerie, ring acts, bareback riders, snake charmers and gypsies. Rides on the Cunningham pony were popular, and Elsie the Ostrich and Woofus the elephant were special attractions. Admission was again 10 cents—rain or shine.

One of the more enduring traditions of the 30's at Crawford, is the Christmas Carol Program. The program began as carol singing by all the grades, assembled in the kindergarten room. As audiences grew larger, the programs were presented in various locations including the steps of Crawford School, the Episcopal Church, the Collegiate Methodist Church, and Welch School. In 1952, the annual program was presented in the new Edwards Elementary School and it included a Christmas play in honor of Miss Abbie Sawyer who had retired in June of 1951, as principal of Louise Crawford School. In 1969 the Crawford Christmas Carols performed in the newly completed wing of Crawford School.

The 1930 enrollment of 108 students showed a sharp increase in the 1940's. As the enrollment of Iowa State College increased, so did the enrollment of Crawford Elementary with its ever increasing number of campus children from Pammel Court, the married student housing units. After several years of crowded conditions the first addition was completed. The original building was constructed so that an addition could be added as part of the total school plant. The comple-

tion of the second floor with three classrooms to house second, third, and fourth graders was finished in time for the beginning of the 1948 school term. This addition cost \$33,000.

Mr. Bill Ellett was principal of Crawford from 1952 until 1962 when he left to become principal of the new Abbie Sawyer Elementary School. During his stay at Crawford space again became a major problem and some children attended school in the Crawford annex, at the Collegiate Presbyterian Church. The PTA meetings continued to be well attended, and proceeds from the annual PTA bake sale provided needed playground equipment and other items for the school.

In 1962, Mr. Dale Brentnall came to Crawford as principal. The boundary lines were again juggled on the periphery of the district and some Crawford children now attended Whittier School, also presided over by Mr. Brentnall. In 1967, he journeyed across town to become principal of the new Gertrude Fellows Elementary School.

1967 brought Crawford another principal, Mr. Gaylord Tryon, and the same old problem—space. Increased enrollment once again suggested enlargement of the building. Plans were made for a large addition and construction was begun in 1968. For staff and students it was a horrendous year, as classes were frequently held to the tune of the air hammer. Art and music classes convened in the nearby Dixon

house, which was used as a temporary annex, and eventually would be moved to facilitate playground expansion. With the end of the 1968 school year came an almost completed new addition, and the end of an era, marked by the retirement of Mildred Myers who had been on hand to greet students at Crawford each year since that September day in 1930 when the doors were first opened. Hundreds of former students, friends, and teaching associates wrote letters to her. Hundreds more came to a reception in her honor, which was held in May, in the new Welch Junior High School.

The most recent addition to Louise Crawford School was completed in August of 1969, and the school year began in September with an enrollment of 200 students and a staff of 18. The addition, which cost \$198,000 to construct added 10,786 sq. ft. to the existing building. This three level area houses an Instructional Materials Center music room, art room, gymnasium, and administrative offices. Imbedded in the walls of the addition are brick murals, unique to Louise Crawford School. The 1968 classes of Crawford each carved a mural on unfired bricks to be used in the construction of the addition. When the murals were finished the bricks were fired and placed in the walls of the building as a tribute to all the Crawford children, to those who have been a part of its history, and to those who will skip through its halls in some future decade.



Meeker

The Warren H. Meeker School was named after Professor Meeker of Iowa State. He was first elected to the Ames Board of Education in March, 1912. Warren H. Meeker served continuously for 33 years—16 of those years as president—until his retirement in March, 1945. At the time of his retirement he was considered the dean of all members of city boards of education in Iowa.

As a member of the Iowa State College staff for 55 years and head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering for 26 years, Professor Meeker used his wisdom and understanding to help both students and faculty.

Professor Meeker was always present at Board meetings. His experience and knowledge of public school procedure proved most valuable in solving difficult problems and especially helpful to new members.

The corner stone for the Warren H. Meeker School was laid in 1950 and the building was opened for classes in the fall of 1951. The original structure contained seven classrooms, the gym and the auditorium. Almost from the year it opened the building proved to be too small for the assigned area. Overcrowded classrooms became the rule rather than the exception. A six room addition in 1955 east of the gym helped reduce the per class enrollment for a short time.

The continued building boom in north Ames made it necessary to add another seven room addition in 1957. Again additional new homes brought more boys and girls to the area north of 13th Street and east of Grand Avenue. The capacity of

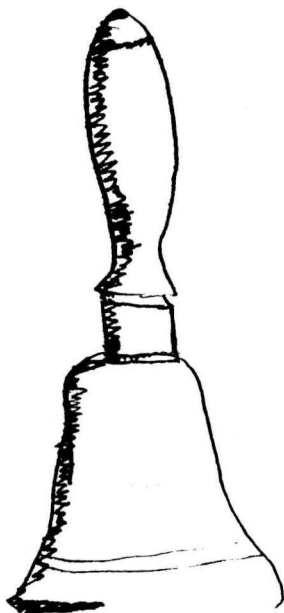
the building was again greatly exceeded. At one time seven hundred and seven children were packed into a building designed for five hundred boys and girls.

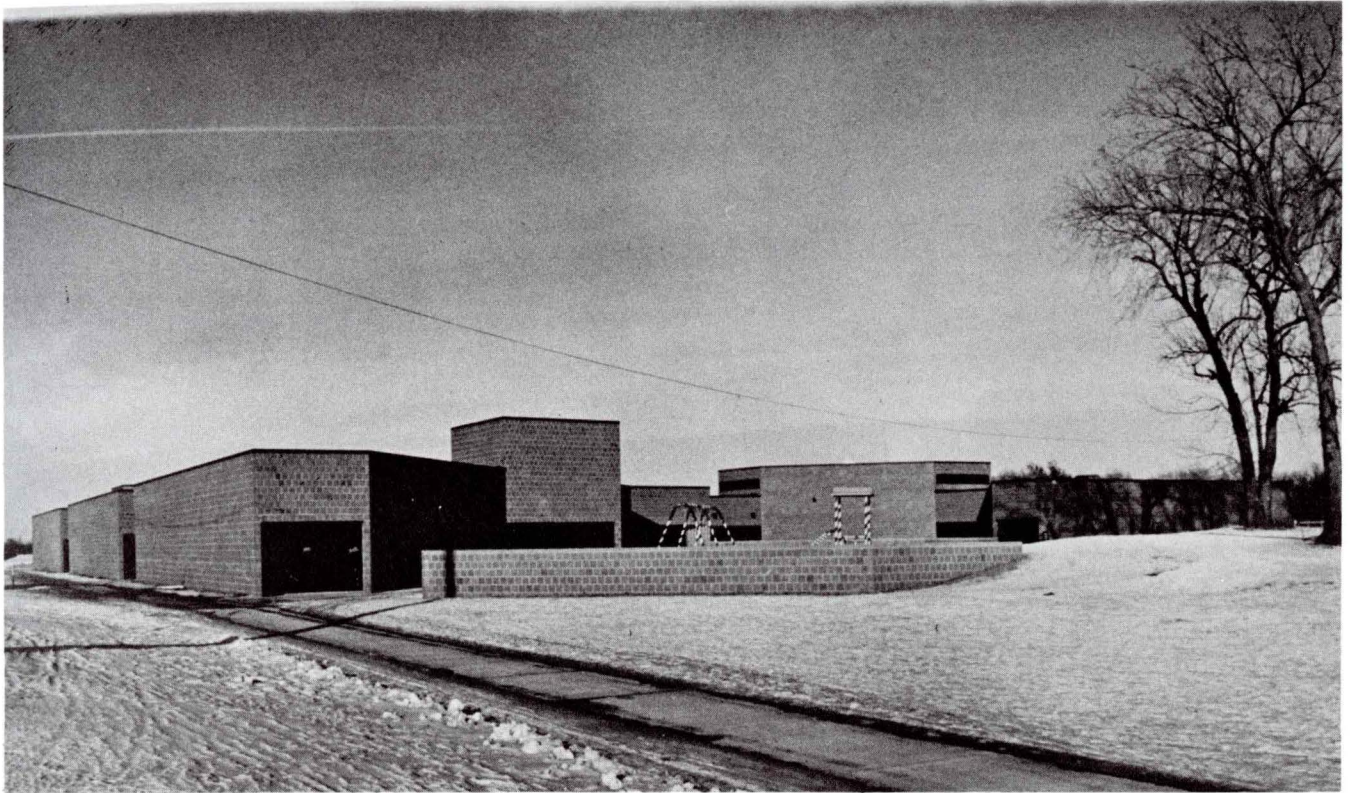
The rental of church facilities housing sixth grade children in downtown locations and the opening of new schools have now effectively reduced the enrollments at Meeker. The centennial year for the system will see Meeker with an ideal class size and three sections of kindergarten through sixth grade. The teachers can hope to more effectively meet the real needs of each child, a long-sought goal of each elementary teacher in Ames.

The objective of individualizing the offerings of the elementary school is enhanced with the IMC, or Instructional Media Center, concept in every elementary school in the system. Meeker was one of the first schools which consolidated classroom collections and established a central library. The Warren H. Meeker IMC has outgrown the lobby and extends fifty feet down a corridor.

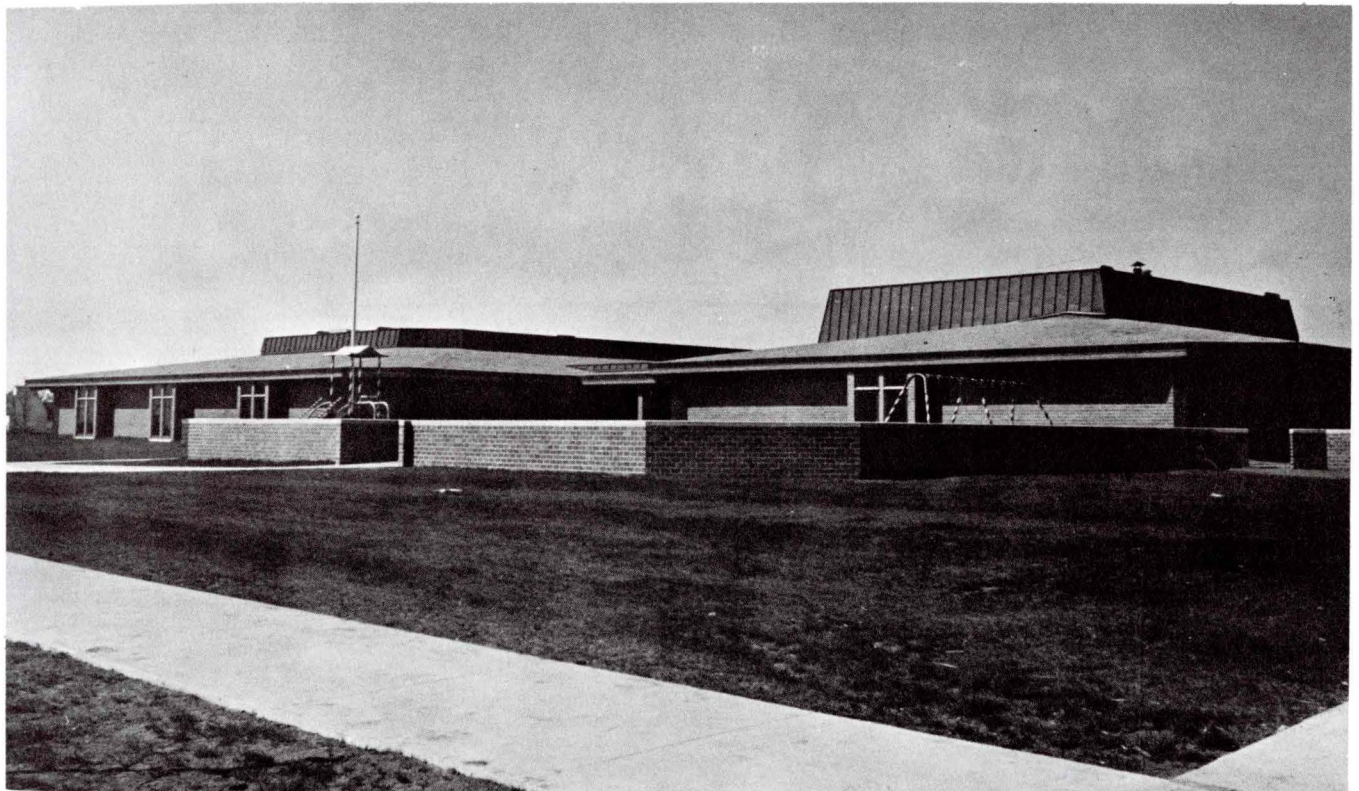
A building alone is not a school. Over the years, one hundred and two teachers have come to Meeker, labored to assist boys and girls and for various reasons left. The present staff of thirty-one teachers, secretaries and custodians are also dedicated to the high goals of the Ames system and make a major effort to build on each child's uniqueness.

Mrs. Beth Struble served as the first Principal of Meeker in the 1951-1952 school year. In 1952 Mr. Herb Hatch assumed this administrative leadership.





Northwood



Kate Mitchell

And a Second Century begins

